Hike in Outlay for Rural Development

941. SHRI VIREN J. SHAH:
SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN:

Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been a hike in the budght allocation for rural development in the Eighth Five Year Plan from Rs. 10,955.96 crores in the Seventh Plan to Rs. 30,000 crores (i.e. hike of nearly 280 percent);

(b) if so, the steps Government so far taken to ensure that the resources made available are utilised to fulfil the objectives laid down in the Eighth Five Year Plan;

(c) what progress has so far been made to achieve the objectives for ushering in economic progress and social transformation in the rural areas; and

(d) whether there has been any resource crunch which stood on the way for giving due priority to this sector; if so, the details thereof, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT) (SHRI UTTAMBHAI H. PATEL) (a) to (c) The budget allocation for rural development in the 8th Five Year Plan has been stepped up from Rs. 10955.96 crores during the 7th Plan to Rs. 30,000 crores. All efforts are made to fullfil the objectives laid down in the 8th Plan though implementation of various poverty alleviation and other programmes in the States. A Statement showing the physical targets and achievements under major programmes during the last three years of the 8th Plan is given in Annexure *[See Appendix* 176, *Annexure No.* 39]

(d) In the context of overall resources crunch in the economy, due priority has been given to the rural development sector. The Planning Commission has allocated Rs. 8692 crores as central outlay during 1996-97 for the programmes of the Ministry of Rural Areas & Employment.

Export of Zinc by Hindustan Zinc Limited

942. SHRI BHAGABAN MAJHI: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Hindustan Zinc Limited (HZL) has been planning to increase export of Zinc;

(b) if so, the total production and export of zinc by HZL during the last three years;

(c) the total tonnes of zinc proposed to be exported in 1995-96;

(d) the amount of foreign exchange expected to be earned by exporting zinc during 1995-96; and

(e) the target of export to be achieved by 1996-97 financial year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI GIRIDHAR GAMANG): (a) No, Sir.

(b) The total production and export of zinc by Hindustan Zinc Limited (HZL) during the last three years are shown in the following table:—

(Figures in Tonnes)

	1992-93	1993-94	1994-95
Production	106564	119879	119807
Export	1155	3058	5093

(c) Under present market environment, export of zinc metal is not economically viable, During 1995-96 the Company has not exported zinc.

(d) and (e) In view of (c) above, questions do not arise.

Retention of services of Board Level Officers

943. SHRI GHUFRAN AZAM: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) Whether Government have not been retaining the services of board level officers of different PSUs under its administrative jurisdiction beyond the age of 58 years despite their involvement in different ongoings of the projects;

(b) whether Government would review the position and issue orders for retention of their services in the larger interest of the State;

(c) the number of Board level officers likely to retire during the year 1996 from different PSUs under his Ministry;

(d) whether orders of extension shall be issued accordingly; and